NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

ACCESS CONTROL

(Ac.)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

PURPOSE

Achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment in coordination with the application schedule of practices, measures and activities specified in the conservation plan.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all land uses.

CRITERIA

Use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, patrolling, gates, fences and other barriers, permits) shall achieve the intended purpose and include mitigating associated resource concerns to acceptable levels during their installation, operation, and maintenance. Activities will complement the application schedule and life span of other practices specified in the conservation plan.

Each activity or measure will identify the entity to be monitored and regulated (animals, people, vehicles and/or equipment) and specify the intent, intensity, amounts, and timing of exclusion by that entity. Activities may involve temporary to permanent exclusion of one to all entities.

Placement, location, dimensions and materials (e.g., signs, gates), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates) shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

Adequate warnings or markings will be displayed where there is potential danger with the use of a barrier.

Barriers may consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, signs or removal of the targeted animal.

Minimize barriers impacts on public safety activities such as fire control.

Barrier type and design should minimize impacts to non-targeted wildlife, animal movement and human health.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Where shade and shelter are needed in pastureland that adjoins woodland,

construct a fence inside the wooded area 50 to 100 feet from the edge of the pasture. The wooded area that is within the pastured area should be thinned until no more than 1/3 of the area is under tree canopy. The area around the remaining trees should be seeded. Refer to Forage and Biomass Planting – Code 512 for planting information. Planners should take into consideration the species makeup of the existing pasture and the landowner's future pasture management plans when recommending seed mixtures. For example, tall fescue is shade tolerant, but its management requirements may be different from the existing grasses.

Livestock or other animals may be excluded by one of the following:

1. ***Fence – Refer to Fence – Code 382***
2. ***Living fence or hedge – Refer to Hedgerow Planting – Code 422***
3. ***Other impassable barriers to livestock or animals such as, stone/rock barriers and mining highwalls***
4. ***Permanent removal of the targeted animal***

Methods to exclude people include:

1. ***Signs***
2. ***Fence – Refer to Fence – Code 382***
3. ***Vegetation***
4. ***Physical barriers***

CONSIDERATIONS

Even though usage of the area is monitored and controlled, the land manager and/or tenant should be advised about emergency preparedness agencies and related information, e.g., the local fire/wildfire control agency and pumper truck water sources on or near the area. Information should be designated initially and re-designated annually.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Consider the effects of installation of barriers and fences on the integrity of subsurface cultural resources (including compaction). Also consider the benefits installation may have on cultural resources by reducing the potential for erosion due to livestock and vehicle traffic.

Consider the aesthetics of the barrier in areas of high visibility and public access.

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

See Field Office Technical Guide References – Real Property: Landowner Rights and Responsibilities in West Virginia and Real Property: Rural Landowner's Liability and Posting of Land.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each area and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

The following will be identified (as appropriate):

Method of exclusion

Purpose of exclusion

Timing of exclusion

Wording of any warning signs or markings on the barrier

Dimension of the barrier

Size and description of the area being protected

Area of exclusion indicated on the conservation plan map

Any associated component practices necessary to complete this practice

Operation and maintenance plan

CPA-052 or similar environmental documentation

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Monitoring of the effectiveness of use-regulating activities will be performed routinely and at least annually with changes made to specifications and operation and maintenance requirements as necessary.

Modifications to activities and use of measures are allowed temporarily to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or flood as long as resource conditions are maintained.

An operation and management plan shall be developed for this practice. Items that should be addressed in the plan as applicable are:

Periodic inspection of barriers (at least annually and after storm events) and repairs performed as needed.

Follow any operation and maintenance plans for individual practice components designed and installed under the provisions of other WV standards.

REFERENCES

Gucinski, H.; M.J. Furniss, R.R. Ziemer, M.H. Brookes. 2001. Forest roads: a synthesis of scientific information. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-509. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Patric, J.H., Helvey, J.D., "Some Effects of Grazing on Soil and Water in the Eastern Forest", USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, NE-GTR-115.

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U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2003. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads. Washington, DC. http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003r1r2/pdf_index.htm

Bold italics indicate state information added to the national standard.